

## **News Release**

---

Farm Service Agency  
Public Affairs Staff

1400 Independence Ave. SW  
Stop 0506  
Washington, DC 20250-0506

Release No. 1495.98

Sue Rourk King (816) 926-6189

### **FARM SERVICE AGENCY LAUNCHES FARMERS MARKET LINKED WITH FOOD RECOVERY EFFORT**

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 29, 1998 -- The Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced it will host a farmers market on Monday, June 1, 1998, at the USDA-FSA parking lot at 9001 State Line Road. Market hours will be from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The farmers market is being held in support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Recovery to Help the Hungry Program.

"We're taking this opportunity to demonstrate what farmers' markets have to offer consumers, and help educate people on the benefits of fresh fruits, vegetables, and other foods," Alan King, Director of FSA's Kansas City Commodity Office said. "At the same time we're going to be promoting gleaning efforts and encouraging people to get involved in food recovery."

Gleaning and food recovery are the saving of unwanted or excess food that would otherwise be thrown away by producers, processors, distributors, or others. Recovered food is provided to various food assistance programs to help feed the hungry.

The National Summit on Food Recovery, held last fall, established the goal of increasing by one third the amount of food recovered by the year 2000. This increase will represent an additional 500 million pounds of food, which would help feed 450,000 Americans each day.

Farmers are encouraged to donate produce not sold at the FSA sponsored farmers market to food recovery efforts and distribution programs in the Kansas City area. Customers may also donate food items purchased at the market to make a positive difference in the lives of the less fortunate.

"FSA's close relationship with farmers means we can play a vital role in encouraging the growth of farmers markets and food recovery," said Jackie Blanks, Acting Director of FSA's Kansas City Management Office. "Our job is to help the farmer and production agriculture; farmers markets are good both for farmers and consumers. And gleaning produce that otherwise would be wasted has a lot of potential as a way of making high-quality food available to help feed the hungry. We hope our own efforts help make food recovery more popular across the country."

(more)

FSA invites the Kansas City public to visit the farmers markets to shop for fresh produce and learn about the connections between farms, food, the Farm Service Agency, and food recovery efforts. Markets will be held this summer on the following dates: June 1, 15, and 29; July 13 and 27; August 10 and 24; September 14 and 28; and October 19.

Further information for producers interested in participating in the markets is available at (816) 926-6189.

#

NOTE: Farm Service Agency (FSA) news releases and media advisories are available on the World Wide Web at FSA's Home Page: <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>